



# THE CITY OF WHITTIER

*Gateway to Western Prince William Sound*

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**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY AUGUST 17, 2021  
7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### 2. OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

#### A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:

Victor Shen, Monty Irvin, Tom Wagner, and Dave Dickason.

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to excuse Peter Denmark, David Pinquoch, and Dan Blair from tonight's meeting

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

#### B. Administration Present:

Jim Hunt, City Manager

Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk

Kris Erchinger, Finance Director

Scott Korbe, Public Works Director

Andre Achee, Police Chief

Dave Bord, Harbormaster

**Others Present:** Cathy McCord, Alexandra Matsumiya, Dave Goldstein, Hope Borg, Diane Hunt, Charlene Arneson, Anna Dickason, Mark Hager, Rose Medez, Kristin Carpenter, Katie Berry, Donna Logan, and Kelly Bender.



#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 20, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to approve the July 20, 2021, City Council regular Meeting minutes as written

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

#### **5. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to approve the August 17, 2021, Regular Meeting Agenda with amendments to move the Presentation item to 5a.

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

#### **6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

##### **A. Mayor Report**

Dave Dickason reported that there is a lot of work ahead for the City Council and hoped that Special meetings can be held for Council members who have been busy with the summer season can catch up on. He mentioned his meeting with Sean Thorne and how Sean chose Whittier to launch his campaign for the Libertarian ticket for Alaska's representative for U.S. Senator. Dave directed some questions over to administrations regarding leases and the sign donated by Ted Spencer. He concluded with a fond farewell to George and Gerda Weamire, long-time residents of Whittier, and wished them well for their future.

##### **B. Vice Mayor Report**

Excused from tonight's meeting and unavailable to give a report.

#### **7. MANAGER'S REPORT**

##### **A. City Manager and Director Reports- Jim Hunt**

Jim reported on positive financial updates. He mentioned the letter that was included in the packet from Gov. Dunleavy that was sent to the Alaska Railroad regarding a lawsuit. Jim stated that there is a financial strategy planning for the Harbor Phase 3 rebuild. He reported on the Buckner Building Request for Qualifications and received interest back from Brownfield Program Services and submissions from SLR Consulting and Cardno Inc. Jim stated that it's important for the City to move forward as it looks good to the Delegation. Jim reported on the event he attended to meet the Kingdom of the Netherlands Ambassador. He reported that he had been keeping the City's lobbyists updated on potential and future projects and the potential project the City may have with Cardno Inc. Jim spoke about the Tsunami advisory that residents in Alaska had received. Weekly testing of the siren is being done.

Kris Erchinger reported that the issue the City had with the Internal Revenue Services was resolved. She gave a brief history on the situation and the status of it when she started working for the City. She saw that it was affecting the City's ability of applying for grants so she worked very hard to get the City up to date and get the issue corrected. She reported that the City had applied for 2 grants and updated that the grant for the ambulance was successful. She said that the City had been rewarded a grant for \$958,385.00 from the State to recover from loss of Cruise Ship head-tax. She said as it is a state grant and not CVP monies, limitations are not the same but there are limitations. She gave an updated on the FLAP grant and that the City received the monies after



being officially notified for eligibility for \$2.5 million. She directed the Council to the packet and explained check marks on the budget policies dashboard. The Mayor thanked Kris for all her work. He asked about the restrictions for the state grant covering CPV funds. Kris explained that until she sees the actual grant agreement, the City won't know the restrictions.

Jim added that Whittier's census result for 2020 and that the population has gone from 220 to 272.

Andre Achee gave an update on the Hazmat Response exercise at the Head of the Bay with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Civil Support Team and the Whittier Public Safety Department. He gave the timeline for this training. He spoke about the tsunami warning siren/system/advisory and the monitoring of the information center with NOAA and the Tsunami Warning Center. He updated on the ambulance and said it is fully operational.

Dave Borg gave an update on the bathroom situation. He said that restrooms are working and are operational but the portable toilets are in town until the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor gave suggestions for improvement.

## **8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Planning Commission**

Nothing new to report

### **B. Port & Harbor Commission**

Nothing new to report

### **C. Parks & Recreation Committee**

Victor Shen reported on the recent ongoings, volunteer day, and service group. He said that up to 200-300ft. of trail was built in the connector trail and reported on the meeting that had just happened tonight and said new people had shown up to potentially help with social media and paperwork.

### **D. Whittier Community School**

Nothing new to report

### **E. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.**

Nothing new to report

### **F. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council**

Nothing new to report

## **9. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

None

## **10. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

None

## **11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)**

None

## **12. PRESENTATIONS (Item moved to 5a)**



**Prince William Sound Economic Development – Kristin Carpenter, Executive Director**

Kristin Carpenter gave a brief history about the Economic Development district and how they find funding through the Economic Development administration. She gave examples of how the agency finds projects to help those in the district with comprehensive goals and strategies. Katie Berry with the McKinley Research Group gave a PowerPoint presentation on what their goals and priorities are. Questions were asked by the Council and the group was able to provide answers.

**13. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Resolution #24-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City Of Whittier, Alaska, Accepting Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for Governmental Units Within Census Areas as Distributed Through the State of Alaska, and Appropriating Funds

Kris gave a description of the resolution is the accepting of federal funds distributions and said that the resolution is a second pot of money that is being distributed to cities in census areas. She said the funds require Council approval.

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to adopt Resolution #24-2021

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

**14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Res. #12-2021, Regarding Ad Hoc Committee  
Item was not discussed.

B. Personnel Policy and Procedures  
Item was not discussed.

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Commission Appointments  
1. Port and Harbor Commission Seat C – Nick Olzenak

Nick Olzenak was appointed by the Mayor to the Port and Harbor Commission as he had changed his residency to Whittier.

**16. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Victor Shen urged citizens to reach out to their doctors about the vaccine and to consider getting it.

Dave Dickason mentioned the mishap with the Tsunami Warning system. He apologized to the Community.

**19. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

Kelly Bender stated that discussion for the Fudge Shop is still on the table.

**20. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Jim responded to Kelly and stated that it is still a topic of discussion with the attorney. He reminded Holly that it needs to be discussed.

## 21. ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm

ATTEST:



Naelene Matsumiya  
City Clerk



Dave Dickason  
Mayor